

ESPS Peer-review Report

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Title: Combining The Model For End Stage Liver Disease Systems and US-doppler For Predicting The Occurrence Of Esophageal Variceal Bleeding In Patients With Decompensated Cirrhosis

Reviewer code: 02861012

Science editor: Wen, Ling-Ling

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Global Comments: The authors have presented a very useful and interesting study on how to develop new non-invasive ways to predict the risk of esophageal variceal bleeding (EVB). However, some concerns should be resolved. Major comments: 1. Materials & Methods: "A total of 486 consecutive decompensated cirrhotic patients [238 males... were included in this study]. So are the rest patients female? In table 1 " sex (male) 27 EVB(+) from total n=51" similar to the EVB(-). If you sum up the males in EVB(-) and EVB(+) groups it doesn't give 238 males reported in the main text. Moreover, it is unclear what the rest of the patient are (51-27) (365-201) and in general which patients the study included. 2. Materials & Methods: If the study didn't include females, why was that? 3. Materials & Methods: Statistical analyses: For the independent t-test was a normality test performed beforehand to assure the t-test was the most appropriate to use? 4. Results: Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses in predicting EVB: "Logit (P) =1.667*ΔMELD+ etc. Can you describe in detail where the equation came from? 5. Introduction: a high frequency of patients with compensated cirrhosis also have varices. Can you use the same formula to predict variceal haemorrhage in those patients as well? Minor comments: 1. Results: Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses in predicting EVB: provide measurement units for diameter of SV, blood flow, velocity. 2. AUC: explain what does it stand for